

I do not think we should be voting on this bill today until we have answers to those questions.

#### FIRST 100 DAYS OF CONGRESS

(Mr. REICHERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, in the first 100 days of Congress, my Republican colleagues and I have worked to make America safer. Since the tragic day of September 11 when our country suffered a painful blow to its heart, we have persevered to make sure every American feels secure and knows our freedom will always be protected.

We continue to take strides in the war on terror, here at home and abroad. Our country will not yield to our enemies who lack humanity and principle. As our selfless soldiers move forward and yield freedom and choice overseas, it is critical that they have the most up-to-date protective gear available. In the supplemental appropriations, we designated funding to do just that.

In the REAL ID Act, we implemented the 9/11 Commission's recommendations. By applying critical driver's license reforms and stringent border protection, we ensure that licenses cannot be used by terrorists as a gateway to travel documents, weapons or firearms.

Mr. Speaker, we live in a Nation, a great Nation of liberty. I am privileged as a new Member to vote for these important pieces of legislation protecting our homeland, and I look forward to what our majority will accomplish in the coming days.

#### THE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS BILL

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, today we have a very stark example of what is dysfunctional about the Republican's running of this House. We have done nothing about the livable wage that we all believe in. We have done nothing about providing health insurance for the people in this country. Forty-five million have nothing. We have done nothing about the housing prices and problems in this country. We have done nothing about cleaning up the environment. In fact, we continue to be addicted to oil and all we do is pass a bill that gives more money to oil and to coal.

Now, we are not dealing with the problems of the American people. Instead today what we are doing is continuing to pursue the Bush war of folly in Iraq. He has spent \$200 billion of our money so far. He says, "Please give me another 80. I don't know what I'm going to do with it, but I'm going to keep spending it over there."

□ 1030

The electricity is not up in Iraq. The sewer system is not in up in Iraq. The telephone system is not up in Iraq. He cannot fix it there or here.

This is a bad bill, and it ought to be voted against.

#### WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1268, EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR DEFENSE, THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR, AND TSUNAMI RELIEF ACT, 2005

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 258 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

#### H. RES. 258

*Resolved*, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 1268) making Emergency Supplement Appropriations for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Tsunami Relief, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived. The conference report shall be considered as read.

SEC. 2. The chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary is authorized, on behalf of the Committee, to file a supplemental report to accompany H.R. 748.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). The gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE) is recognized for 1 hour.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oklahoma?

There was no objection.

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday the Committee on Rules met and reported a rule for consideration of the conference report on H.R. 1268, the Emergency Supplemental Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Tsunami Relief Act, 2005. The rule waives all points of order against the conference report and provides that the report shall be considered as read. Additionally, it authorizes the chairman of the House Committee on the Judiciary to file a supplemental report to accompany H.R. 748.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1268, the emergency supplemental appropriation, is

intended to fully fund our forces overseas and at home. It helps to ensure the full funding of the important accounts which have been depleted during our global war on terror and our effort to assist the Iraqi and Afghan people in their efforts to establish functioning democracies in their countries.

Additionally, the bill includes important funding for Afghan reconstruction and counter-terrorism assistance, counternarcotics efforts, international food aid, and relief to address the terrible tragedies resulting from the massive tsunami that struck the Southwest Pacific and Indian Oceans in December of 2004.

Mr. Speaker, additionally, this rule provides important increases in coverage for the servicemembers' group life insurance and increases coverage for individual soldiers from \$250,000 to \$400,000. It also increases the one-time death benefit from \$12,000 to \$100,000. While neither of these benefits can ever replace the lives of brave American service personnel lost in action, they can assist their families through the hard times they will face while recovering from the loss of their loved ones.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 258 allows us to fully debate the important issues surrounding the war on terror. Just yesterday we saw on the front page of The Washington Post a graphic photograph that captured the terrible effects of the war on an innocent victim and the courage and compassion of the American soldiers who are engaged in the battle. We should keep this image in mind as we commence the debate on the conference report today. More than any words I could ever utter, that picture illustrates the nobility of our effort, the valor and decency of our soldiers, and the evil and fanaticism of our enemies.

Many may wish to raise policy issues in this debate. That is certainly appropriate. Others may want to discuss issues that, however important, are superfluous to the war on terrorism. Mr. Speaker, I believe in this discussion we should focus our remarks on what truly counts. We have committed 170,000 of our servicemen and -women to fight terrorism and advance the cause of freedom in Iraq and Afghanistan. We owe them our full support in the battles they wage on behalf of the American people and the cause of liberty. This rule and the underlying bill represent the efforts of Congress to keep that solemn commitment to the sons and daughters of America.

Mr. Speaker, to that end I urge support for the rule and the underlying bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE) for yielding me the customary 30 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I think we can all agree that supporting our young men and